



**Summer  
2011**

# Friends of BRGS

*A newsletter produced by BRGS  
for former students, parents and  
the community*

**Bacup & Rawtenstall  
Grammar School**

**ISSUE  
24**

## Thank you and good luck to Mr. Morris!

The BRGS history books tell us that the school has had only five headmasters over the last century since the school was built in 1913 (Mr. T.E. Jackson, Mr. E. H. Holden, Mr. W. Copley, Mr. P. L. Clark and most recently, Mr. M. Morris – the first Mr. Morris!) and Marc Morris was the sixth. Marc had always wanted to work overseas and the opportunity to become Principal at Sha Tin College in Hong Kong finally tempted him away from us. His last day at BRGS will be the 22nd July 2011.

Marc has made a lasting impression on the school in spite of the relative brief spell of time - by BRGS standards - which he has spent here. Marc's professionalism and measured approach to school life is well-respected by staff and students alike. Countless students have benefited from Marc freely giving up his time to establish a climbing group, attend numerous Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, lead two World Challenge Expeditions, run sports teams (including leading the successful netball Guinness world record attempt for the longest-ever netball match) and participate in music concerts and school shows.

Fundamental to Marc's vision is that every child should seize opportunities available to them and with over 60 extra-curricular activities taking place at BRGS this is a mantra which Marc regularly shares with students during assemblies, emphasising that academic results alone do not lead to well-rounded students.

Listed are merely a few of the changes which have taken place under Marc's leadership:

- The introduction of Marc's Music Tuition for All Scheme whereby over 500 students now have instrumental lessons. Each student when they arrive in Year 7 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument for free.
- The school changed from being a Technology College to Maths and Computing Specialist Status and was eligible to apply as a high performing specialist college to receive Training School Status. This transformed training and development opportunities at BRGS.

Marc on a World Challenge Expedition at the top of Kilimanjaro.



- The Sports Hall was completed followed by the remodelling of the gym into the Martyn Morris Sixth Form Centre. Our sloping top field became an all-weather pitch to share with Waterfoot Primary School and we aim to open our English Classroom Block later this year along with conversion of the tennis courts at the front of the school into a car park.
- Finally, the academic results have improved considerably with most recent appearances in the league tables reinforcing this.

Marc has openly said that he would not have moved from BRGS for any other opportunity in the UK. He was selected from a top international field to be Principal of Sha Tin College in Hong Kong and he followed his own advice to students at BRGS in accepting the role and making the most of opportunities which life provides. We will miss him and wish him and Magi well in their exciting new lives overseas.

*We look forward to welcoming Alan Porteous who is currently headteacher at St. Aidan's Church of England Technology College, Poulton-le-Fylde to BRGS as headteacher from January 2012. Deputy Head and Director of Sixth Form Trevor Elkington will be Acting Head during the Autumn Term 2011.*

## Welcome!

The summer term has been full of significant events which will be noted in the BRGS history books: the departure of headteacher Marc Morris to a new and exciting role in Hong Kong; 100 years since the laying of the school's foundation stones and the retirement of a number of long-serving members of staff. We wish all those leaving BRGS every happiness and success.

This edition also brings us news of success in a number of sports and new activities for BRGS including cheerleading!

We wish you all a happy summer.

All best wishes,

*Emma*

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## 'UNITE AGAINST CANCER'

A team of sixth formers arranged a valley-wide initiative, *Unite Against Cancer*, with students wearing blue and pink wristbands to raise money for cancer charities.



## Over 100 years of dedicated service

Long-serving members of staff who are sadly leaving us - but who can claim a combined total of nearly 100 years' service at BRGS - are Head of PE Sue Smith, Mike Godden (French teacher), Ann Weir (chemistry teacher) and Laureen Pritchard (psychology teacher). We wish them all well and hope that they enjoy happy retirements both in the UK and overseas!

Our good luck and best wishes go to our other two teachers who are moving on to new roles: Richard Newby (science teacher) and Jennifer Magill (MFL teacher).

Our sincere thanks go to Brenda Gardner who has worked in a number of guises at BRGS for a quarter of a century. Her roles have ranged from managing the welfare team to more recently co-ordinating the smooth running of our primary school masterclasses. Brenda has always gone the extra mile for students and staff at BRGS and we know that she will keep in touch.

Thank you also to Susan Caygill who has been a committed member of the science technician team and who is retiring at the end of the summer term. We thank her for her professionalism and loyalty.

## Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band

A musical extravaganza and delight took place in April as students performed the entire *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* album along with a few bonus tracks: *Let It Be*, *Penny Lane*, *Strawberry Fields Forever* and *All You Need Is Love* which was performed by the staff band. The finale *A Day in the Life* was simply spectacular and the musical complexity of some of the songs allowed the students to demonstrate their excellent musicianship. Each song was performed by different school musical ensembles and the music department had put on a night to remember.

Other musical treats have included a Year 10 concert with students providing a varied and eclectic mix of music culminating in a blues jam, displaying some of their improvisational talents, a summer concert and musical anniversary celebrations at St. Nicholas Church, Newchurch.

## PAPER CRANES

Jason Ngan and Lawrie Brailey led the fundraising efforts in response to the earthquake and tsunami in Japan with everyone in the school paying £1 towards the creation of one thousand cranes. Jason and Lawrie were inspired by Japanese culture whereby one thousand folded cranes allows you to make a wish: our wish being for Japan's recovery coupled with the material aid of money which was sent to the Red Cross relief effort.



## Our annual Geography Trip to Iceland



## BRGS celebrates 100 years since the laying of the school's two foundation stones



On Friday 1st July we marked the 100 year anniversary at BRGS of the laying of the two foundation stones. The building work then took two years before BRGS opened in 1913.

Press coverage from the time makes for interesting reading with guests at the original ceremony remarking on past animosity between the boroughs of Bacup and Rawtenstall and how the event represented a new "feeling that has existed" of "peace and friendship", uniting the people of Rossendale! The event was described as "one of the great historical events in the valley of Rossendale." To read the extensive and fascinating press coverage in full then please go to the school website ([www.brgs.org.uk](http://www.brgs.org.uk)) and click on 'BRGS Centenary 2013' on the home page.





The school celebrated the event with a re-enactment of the original ceremony for all students and special guests including the Mayor of Rossendale Councillor Gladys Sandiford, Jake Berry MP, governors, former Headmaster Philip Clark, former students and staff. The re-enactment was directed by Head of Drama Martin Neve and written by former Deputy Head Lynda Taylor with drama students ably taking us back to 1911.

At the original ceremony two time capsules were placed in cavities underneath the foundation stones and the Mayor of Rossendale placed a time capsule with items representing 2011 in the new English Classroom Block which is currently under construction. A foundation stone for the English Classroom Block was also unveiled to mark the occasion. Included in the time capsule were pieces of creative writing from five BRGS students: Chalcedony Williams, Ygraine Siemens, Anna Ainsworth, Alex Wilson and Connor Armstrong.



Photographed on the day are some of the students and staff who entered into the spirit of the day and dressed up in 1911 attire. Our office staff were particularly well turned out!

Teachers made a special effort to focus lessons on key events from the 1910s with students participating in a range of activities. To name a few: students made a spiced Eve's Pudding in food technology; examined stone masonry in Rossendale in art; investigated the 1911 Census in history along with toys from the time (zoetropes) and wash-days. At lunchtime we even had a highly contested staff tug-of-war!

This was the first event in the lead up to the school's Centenary Celebrations in 2013 and we are looking forward to many more activities to mark this special time in BRGS's history.



# Chemistry Congratulations

*Head of Chemistry Heather Bowden organised for sixth form students to enter the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) International Chemistry Olympiad 2011 which was held in February. A silver certificate was awarded to Yevgeniy Riley in Year 13 which is a fantastic achievement. Yevgeniy is going to study chemistry at university in September.*

Eighteen Year 12 students entered the Olympiad and half of them were awarded participation certificates in recognition of their attempts.

Sarah Al-Dawoud received a certificate of commendation for participation in the RSC Bill Bryson Science Communication Competition 2011 and Zaira Tariq was one of a very small group of shortlisted students who were in the final contention for the Secondary School prize and received a coveted highly commended certificate. The President of the Royal Society of Chemistry Professor David Phillip and the author Bill Bryson wrote to Zaira to explain that the standard of competition was exceptionally high this year and that they therefore wanted to write to her individually to congratulate her on her impressive entry.

## Researching cures for cancer

**We hope that our current talented scientists follow in the footsteps of former student Julie Sutcliffe (left BRGS in 1988) who is a top-class researcher plus a breast cancer survivor.**

Her profession and her diagnosis led to an interesting scenario: as a researcher Julie was testing novel cancer drugs and creating new compounds that would facilitate clearer imaging of cancer cells whereas at the same time, as a patient, she was enrolled in a clinical trial of a new breast CT scanner (one of her colleagues was the surgeon who removed the tumour). Julie is an associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of California where she is working to develop PET (positron emission tomography) scans to allow physicians to precisely pinpoint tumours and see them in action. Michael Phelps, Norton Simon Professor and Chair of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology at UCLA states "Julie is driven by her passion and will to win against all odds. These personal qualities, combined with her scholarship, make her a remarkable scientist."

## LONDON RECEPTION

*Former students met at the Royal Society of Medicine for an alumni reception.*



# Fancy dress for Year 13 Leavers' Day





# Construction? The World's Your Oyster!

*That was the message of BRGS former student John Boys who gave a fascinating talk about his career at Glovers' recent construction event.*

Head of Contract Services at Glovers, Mary Cross (left BRGS in 1995) kindly hosted the event for alumni and for current students who are interested in pursuing a career in the construction sector. Mary said "I was interested to find out which former pupils had gone on to work in construction and it also gave the opportunity to speak to some young people who are interested in the industry."



Former and current students went to Glovers' office in Accrington to meet and share their thoughts about the construction industry. As well as John Boys, Gary Seed of SBS Architects in Manchester gave an insightful talk on the new award-winning Eco Station in Accrington. Mary then opened the floor up to a lively debate covering the variety of construction careers and where in the world they could take you.

Everyone had an opportunity to network and it was great to see the architects and civil engineers of the future talking to those already doing the job.

Our thanks go to Mary and Glovers for hosting the event.



# A fond farewell



**Former BRGS Senior Mistress Miss Macleroy died on March 19th aged 92 years old. In response to the news, over a hundred former students shared their memories of Miss Macleroy, some of which follow:**

*"Miss Mac was a brilliant teacher – totally dedicated. She took my French A level class for grammar lessons (Mr Copley taught us literature himself) and was an absolute stickler – we shall not look upon her like again."*

*"The respect she gained and the esteem in which she was held despite her diminutive size, was the true mark of a fantastic teacher."*

*"I remember her teaching me French in the late forties and early fifties when she was in her mid-twenties. I recall watching her with admiration flying around the playing-field wielding a hockey stick."*

*"I remember Ma Mac well – she was only little but I fainted once in assembly and she picked me up and carried me into her office – like a soldier carrying the wounded!"*

*"Her brilliance in the classroom, and her selfless generosity of time given to her pupils is - and will remain - legendary. Every second of her lesson time was given to effective activity, as detailed on the copious thin strips of paper with which the pages of her copy of the text book were bookmarked...Christmas at BRGS would never have been the same without Miss Macleroy's tuition in the singing of French Christmas carols."*

*"I remember her on patrol at school dances to try to keep the boys and girls apart down in the bowels of the school!"*

*"Her influence on BRGS for over a third of a century has been enormous. Translation from French into Lancashire dialect (when we all got bored with going into English) was one recollection of many happy ones. Her aim in throwing pieces of chalk was sans pareil."*

*"When I was at BRGS in the 1960s we thought a lot of her with her tough shell and soft centre!"*

*"I can well remember someone in class challenging Miss Mac about the spelling of a word. Her reply was 'the day I make a spelling mistake I shall resign!'"*

*"The love of France and the French language she gave me quite simply shaped my life."*

*"She had a no-nonsense approach which masked a great deal of humour and compassion."*

*"Although I was never taught by her I remember her saying, whilst giving me a lift to school in her little Austin A40 that Rossendale children had the perfect pronunciation of the*

*"oo" sound in French by the way they pronounced "look" and "book"!"*

*"I recall her eccentric dress in winter consisting of tartan pleated skirt and wellies!"*

*"Always mildly eccentric, Ma Mac insisted on bringing her beloved Airedale terrier, Roderick, to school with her and keeping him in her office adjoining the main hall throughout the day. On frequent occasions, Roderick, the most undisciplined of dogs, would escape and bound around the hall with Ma Mac in hot pursuit much to the amusement of the pupils watching from the balcony."*

*"It is some testament to both the quality of the lady and the impact that she had on those she taught, that someone like me (failed French at O Level!) should, some 60 years on, be quite taken aback by this sad news."*

**Former headmaster Philip Clark wrote the following tribute to a BRGS stalwart who will be sorely missed:**

Miss Jean E. Macleroy 1918-2011

And no one addressed her as Jean!

Miss Macleroy was a Liverpudlian of Scottish descent. Whilst an undergraduate student she was in France at the time of the German invasion. She was fortunate to reach these shores before the famous evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940. During the war she taught in boys' grammar schools taking the place of men who were serving in the forces. However, when the war ended she finally obtained a permanent post at BRGS in 1947 and stayed for thirty-one years, until her retirement in 1978.

She was appointed senior mistress – a description that would now be seen as having unfortunate connotations – in 1964. In reality she was deputy head with special responsibility for the welfare of girls. Many will recall her on stage at morning assembly – serving this role on some 4800 occasions dressed in tartan skirt and knitted jumper. If a child fainted she would jump from the stage to provide assistance – femininity was never a strong point. She shared the teaching of French to A level, concentrating on language rather than literature. She always stressed that she was not enamoured of the French people. She was the possessor of the most wonderful prejudices ameliorated by a delightful sense of humour.

When the PTA was formed in 1970 she immediately became the most ardent supporter. She was a lover of cricket and regularly attended matches at Bacup in the great days when West Indian test players retired to the Lancashire League. She was also a dog lover and for many years – against all the health and safety regulations which would now apply – kept a large Airedale in her study. Amazingly, it never barked during morning assembly.

After retirement she retained a major interest in the school, supporting the decade long campaigns to retain its grammar school status.

Throughout her 33 years of retirement she remained totally dedicated to the school, retaining her caustic sense of humour and commitment to 'Coronation Street' and the 'Daily Express'. Of all the many causes she supported, BRGS was always top of the list – for 64 years of her life.

## CHESS SUCCESS

Following in the footsteps of BRGS chess notables like Tim Goddard, who reached the Gigafinal in Oldham and Shivali Kohli, who gained a place in the nationals in Sheffield, seven intrepid adventurers set out on the journey to Blackpool - not to eat the candy floss and ride the donkeys, but to pit their wits against the best chess players in the north west. Our heroes and heroine: Angelica Fitzpatrick, Chris Bretherton, Joe Collins, Asanish Kalyanasundaram, Matthew Hoyle, George Platt and Ben Atueyi, were faced with opponents who not only spent every waking hour playing chess, but were often a great deal older; Angelica Fitzpatrick (Year 7) played a sixth former!



However, our opponents were not aware of the BRGS team's secret weaponry – Chris Blacoe's (English teacher) patient tutelage and Gaynor Ashworth's (English teacher) toffees. The results were impressive and the best in living memory! Chris Bretherton, Joe Collins and Matthew Hoyle were all one win short of qualifying for the Northern Final, some of them beating the U18 Champion, whilst Angelica Fitzpatrick (Suprema of her year), Asanish Kalyanasundaram, George Platt (Second in his year) and Ben Atueyi (Supremo for his year) played out of their skins to qualify for the Northern Final at Derby University on 16th July. Wish them luck!

## Ski-slopes of Colorado

During February half-term, 40 students from Years 13 and 10 went to Winter Park Resort in Colorado in the USA for a fabulous ski trip. The accommodation was on a huge YMCA ranch serving big portions of food to the hungry skiers. Students of all skiing abilities and snowboarders were catered for on the slopes too, enjoying the excellent choice of



runs through trees and more open slopes. Some of the steepest skiing was on a mountain called Mary Jane which also had some scarily large mogul fields. The snow and views were great throughout the week and the friendly resort catered for all our needs very well.

In the evenings a variety of activities were on offer: the students played football, went swimming, watched a movie and perhaps most enjoyable of all, had a go at snow tubing. For those not in the know, this involves sliding down a hill on an inflated inner tube and is great fun!

Everyone arrived back tired but exhilarated by the trip and students said they had a wonderful time. Plans are afoot for another visit in 2013, so we look forward to another group of students enjoying the slopes soon.

## Cheerleading Champions

Under the leadership of Head of Dance and PE teacher Kristy Todd, our cheerleaders participated in the UK Cheerleading Association National Finals for the very first time and came away with a number of titles! Year 7 students came second overall, Year 8 students were 5th in the Pom Dance and Year 8 came a magnificent first in the competition – congratulations!

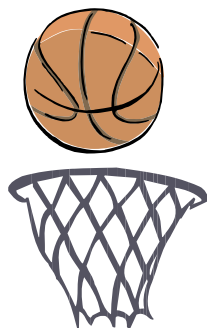


The cheerleaders even took a prime guest spot supporting the Salford Reds Rugby League Club and we are sure that they will continue to further success!

At Salford City Reds



## Sports Reports



### U16 Lancashire Schools' Basketball Champions

*A nail biter, but it shouldn't have been.*

We started off the better team finding it quite easy to score, too easy perhaps as we raced into a 16-6 lead. The first quarter was turning into a cruise, but some poor defending allowed Corpus Christi back into the game reducing our lead to a mere five points, 23-18 at the first break.

The second quarter started well and we extended the lead to 13 points (33-20) but a few dodgy refereeing decisions swung the game in Corpus Christi's favour as Conor Porter picked up his fourth personal foul (five and you are off). In order to save him for the second half he was subbed off. This is where the momentum of the game began to change as Corpus took full advantage of BRGS's strongest player being absent. The half finished 37-35 in our favour.

After half-time Conor was brought back on but with strict instructions not to foul anyone. The lead changed hands a number of times and Corpus were definitely sensing victory. However, at 45-47 down, BRGS had a run of 12 points to 1 to lead 57-48 at three-quarter time.

Was a nine point lead going to be enough heading into the final session of the game? The simple answer was a resounding NO. Corpus began to outscore us two baskets to one to draw the teams level at 68-68 with only four minutes remaining. If they took the lead now, could we ever get it back?

Corpus were awarded two free throws but missed them both. At the other end Mollie Campbell was fouled, awarded two free throws and scored them both. This seemed to give us belief and from that



U16 Basketball champions.

moment on the game mirrored the start. The win was almost easy with time running out and our lead building to 74-69, then 81-70 and finishing 85-74 in our favour.

Conor Porter finished with 47 points (21 in the final quarter), Ben Chicken with 23, Danny Mousley with 10 and Mollie Campbell scored 5.

This was certainly the hardest of the team's three Lancashire victories, following championship victories in year 8 and 9.

Report by Martin Piggott, PE teacher.

### Under 15 Lancashire Netball Champions

The Under 15 netball team finished a tremendous year by becoming Lancashire champions in mixed weather conditions in Blackpool in April. Five of the team were also in the under 16 team who finished 5th in the country in the national championships. The girls involved were: Natasha Chetwynd, Harriet Whitworth, Amy Turner, Hannah Smeed, Georgia Boys, Danielle Montgomery, Natalie Briggs and Nicole Kelly.

The Year 7 team also concluded a good year by playing in their first 'proper' tournament and finishing a creditable third. Those on the team were: Chloe Ross-Brown, Sofia McKenzie, Lucy Chappell, Tash Kirkman, Lydia Lambert, Jessica Fogarty, Georgia Service, Niamh Melvin and Catherine Gallagher.



## Sports Reports

### Year 11 Lancashire Football Champions

The Year 11 football team triumphed in the county championship, winning 2-1 after extra time against Burscough Priory High School.

On a windy day BRGS found themselves playing against the wind in the first half, but battled hard in difficult conditions. Danny Payne in goal made one outstanding save and the back four did not concede any early goals as had happened in the quarter and semi-finals. Honours were even at half time at 0-0.

The second half saw BRGS putting Burscough under pressure and skipper Curtis Gallagher put BRGS ahead with a well made goal. The game then opened up and there were chances at both ends. Burscough although clearly tiring took one of their chances from a corner and the game drifted towards extra time. Full time 1-1.

In extra time BRGS started to press forward with tireless running in the midfield from Fraser Phillips and Conor Porter. With five minutes remaining a BRGS move across the penalty area saw Tom Hattan finish clinically at the far post. There was no way BRGS was going to let the lead slip again and BRGS finished as 2-1 winners.

Brendan Baird, Coach and Head of Boys' PE said: "The game took place on the Year 11s' last afternoon in school and it was a wonderful way for them to finish five years at BRGS. The team has got close in the past to winning this competition and their success is well deserved. Their fitness and drive today was outstanding and their commitment has been excellent throughout the five years."

This topped an exceptional year for Year 11s given that they were already County Champions in both basketball and netball!

The football team consisted of Daniel Payne, Tom Jackson, Daniel Devine, Daniel Mousley, Seamus McDonnell, Ben Horkin, Fraser Phillips, Conor Porter, Tom Hattan, Curtis Gallagher, Joshua Nurney, Joshua Donohoe, David Burns and Alistair Brew.



### Year 9 achieve a hat-trick!

For the third year in a row the Year 9 football team has won the Pendle-Rossendale trophy. In a repeat of last year's final they convincingly beat Fisher More College from Colne 5-1 with one of their best performances of the season. The goals came from Jack McNevin-Duff, Jack Buckley (2), Morgan Phillips and Anthony Cox. While there were several contenders, the Man of the Match was Elliot Irving. Others in the squad were: George Bury, Matt Aspinall (captain), Josh Manton, Ben Snaith, Connor Rooke, Marcus Kay, Jack Haigh, Tom Bennett, Danny Taylor and Ross Pickering.

## Who? What? Where? When?

Our thanks to the following former students who wrote regarding the photo of the 1953 bird-watching society: Brian Robinson, Judith May née Horrocks, Elisabeth Sykes née Taylor, Gerry Hems, Don Green, Jane Biran (known as Della Dillon while at BRGS), Gill Lofthouse and Brian Williamson. Together



they believe that those featured on the photo are: (from left to right) Eric Ward, James Stansfield, James Pilling, Elizabeth Matthews née Pickup, Pauline Dean née James who is holding the shield with another former student we are unable to identify who is possibly Norman Ward. Continuing along the line are Neville Crane, Peter Sellers, Donald Green and Gerald Hems. Eric Ward was a keen ornithologist and started the group when he first joined BRGS and he was a close friend of well-known local naturalist Ken Spencer of Burnley who wrote several books and papers on birds. Gerry Hems recalls: "The photograph was taken when the group entered a nationwide competition run by the RSPB in conjunction with the Forestry people. It involved study of the breeding cycle of a bird and growth cycle of a tree for a period of time and then the submission of essays on the findings. As I recall BRGS won the North of England section and were placed second in the whole country."

Brian Williamson writes that he would like "to commend Mr. Eric Ward for his enthusiasm for biology and his ability to inspire young people in the subject by out-of-hours bird-watching when we walked the moors to visit local reservoirs to see migratory ducks and swans – up to Waugh's Well and over to Ashworth Moor Reservoir was a favourite. We even visited Ewood Bridge Sewage Works! A visit to the Ribble Estuary to watch thousands of wild geese and ducks sticks in my mind as an amazing adventure."

**Here is a further photo from our BRGS archive.**

*If you recognise anyone then please do get in touch.*



# Obituaries

## We were saddened to learn of the following:

- **Joyce Brown** sadly died on the 16th March aged 87. Joyce taught Domestic Science at BRGS in the late fifties.
- **Dorothy Hamer née Mills** was born on the 27th June 1921 and died on the 26th April 2011. Dorothy had lived in the Rossendale Valley all her life and passed away peacefully after a short illness at Lumb Valley Residential Home. Her home was on Booth Road and in recent years BRGS students used to visit to help with 'odd jobs' around the house. She will be missed by three children, 10 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.
- **Mary Aspin née Mills** (1930 – 1935) died on the 11th May 2011.
- Former student **Peter William Howorth** of Underbank House, Bacup, died in Pendleside Hospice on Tuesday 17th May aged 75.
- **Carl Preston** (1967 – 1974) passed away on the 28th May 2011 aged 55 years suddenly in his sleep following a heart attack. He is survived by daughter Kirsty and brothers Alan and Mark. Following school Carl became a driller, a job that he would continue for the rest of his life. He spent several years working in a variety of locations abroad including the Bantam Island in his youth, and in the UK, Israel and Congo in more recent years. He was also a keen traveller and spent many happy summers diving in Malaysia and helping with the turtle conservation project (HOPE) on the Perhentian Islands in Malaysia. His daughter wrote: "It was with great fondness that he recalled his school days, speaking highly of his friends, his teachers and the school itself. In particular he always described Mr. Fuller, Rod Brackstone and Eddie Skeels as the teachers he would never forget. When asked about his school friends he would name many, but there have been particularly memorable conversations about Gary Clarke, Ziggy, the Loomba brothers and the Longstaff brothers."

- **Paul Whitney** sadly died on the 1st June aged 59. He had been suffering from cancer for the last three years. He was joint managing director of Whitney Woods in Cloughfold and was educated at Cloughfold Primary School followed by BRGS and Burnley College of Art. Paul worked at The Department of Employment in Bacup from 1969 – 1972 before moving to California for three years working with his father as a furniture refinisher. His career then took him back to Rossendale as Marketing Manager at Hambledon Studios followed by 10 years as Marketing Manager at P&P Haslingden. In 1992 he founded the print finishing company Whitney Woods with Chris Woods.

Paul was involved in local league football from 1965-1990 starting his playing life as a member of the Newchurch Methodist Boys and ending as a member of the Rawtenstall Legion Veterans' team. His most memorable day was to play in a final on Turf Moor which clinched the Burnley Premier League and Cup double for Whitewell Bottom, a local team that he also managed.

Paul loved to travel and toured the USA extensively. He was also a talented artist and photographer.

He is survived by his wife Kath, his mother Dorothy and sister Gaynor.

Before he died Paul was keen for his life's regrets to be shared: "I believe that most mistakes become lessons and soon fall into the category of "life's rich tapestry" but I cannot help thinking that adopting and maintaining a 35-year social life based on heavy drinking and smoking was possibly not the wisest move that I ever made. I didn't half pack a lot into the time that I've had. Overall, it wasn't a bad innings was it!"

Paul's memorial service was held at a packed Waddington Methodist Church.

- Congratulations to David (1960-1967) and Joan Ratcliffe née Flynn (1961-1968) who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on the 29th May.
- Congratulations to Year 13 student Emma Jackson who participated in the Ponies Association (UK) Championships Winter Championships at Addington Manor and was named as the reserve Supreme of the Show on her horse Kilmiston Skyhawk.
- Former student Graham Butler (1997 – 2004) left BRGS to study at the acclaimed Guildhall School of Music and Drama and has featured in a performance at the National Theatre. He has recently been touring in the lead role in a highly acclaimed production of *Journey's End*, the R. C. Sheriff play which is set in the trenches during the first world war. The Independent describes Graham's performance as 'brilliant'.
- Professor Peter Ormerod (1961 – 1968) has been made Professor of Respiratory Medicine by Manchester University, to add to the chair he already holds from the Lancashire Postgraduate Medical School. He has also been awarded a fellowship of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of Edinburgh, and of Glasgow, to add to the FRCP (Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians) he has held from the London College from 1990.
- Congratulations to Year 12 students Gemma and Heidi Wardle who were awarded the Jack Wilkinson Young Achievers' Award in May at The Riverside, Whitworth for their services as volunteer swimming teachers at the Whitworth Swimming Club along with four other volunteers. The girls have been volunteering at the swimming club as part of the service element of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Our congratulations go to Head of Music Steven Mercer who won the 'best newcomer' category for first-time musical director for *Into the Woods* with the Whitefield Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society in the Manchester Musical Awards.
- Well done to Kirsty Knight (left 2007) on graduating from the University of Liverpool with a BA (Hons) in French and to Emma Owens who has received a first in her degree course.
- Former student Chris Greenwood who is 22 years old and started working at chartered accountancy firm Cassons after leaving BRGS sixth form was offering financial advice on BBC Radio Lancashire in an interview with Ted Robbins. Chris was part of a discussion about new research which reveals that one in five Britons blows nearly all of their earnings within a week of getting paid. Chris said that basic budgeting should be taught in school so that young people understand the essentials of personal finance and planning.



## Bacup & Rawtenstall

*Grammar School*

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